

June 30, 2014

Janet Bowser, Esq.  
Wellesley Natural Resources Commission Director  
525 Washington Street  
Wellesley, MA 02482

**Re: Fiske Elementary School Improvements**

*Request for Tree Removal Hearing*

*SMMA No. 13097.00*

Dear Ms. Bowser:

This letter is being submitted in support of a Tree Removal Hearing request to the Wellesley Natural Resources Commission (NRC) on behalf of the Wellesley Permanent Building Committee (the Applicant). The subject property is the Fiske Elementary School, located at 45 Hastings Street (the Site). A series of Site improvements, including a reconfiguration of the existing front parking lot/access loop and the widening of Hastings Street in front of the School, are being proposed. The proposed improvements will require the removal of five (5) trees considered Public Shade Trees per Chapter 7 of the NRC Policy, Laws and Regulations Handbook and Chapter 87 of the Massachusetts General Laws. Three (3) of the trees are located on the Hastings Street Right-Of-Way line, and two (2) of the trees are located just a few feet outside of the Hastings Street Right-Of-Way.

Under existing conditions, Hastings Street and its intersection with Sheridan Road and Cedar Street experience significant congestion during afternoon pick-up procedures at the school. This is the result of insufficient queuing space on-site for parents, which leads to queuing along Hastings Street, sometimes extending to the Cedar Street intersection. The queuing line prohibits unobstructed 2-way traffic, and hinders access for emergency vehicles. To improve this condition, the project proposes the front parking lot/access drive reconfiguration and the widening of Hastings Street. The street widening will provide an area for parent queuing outside of the traveled way when queuing extends beyond the reconfigured access drive. In total, the combination of proposed improvements will decrease street queuing in the traveled way by approximately 30 vehicles and provide 6 additional on-site parking spaces, helping to alleviate the current congestion problems.

The Hastings Street widening requires the removal of the following tree species:

1. One (1) – 12” caliper Crab Apple Tree (*Malus* spp.)  
In acceptable condition relative to health and vigor and representative of the typical characteristics of the genus and species.
2. One (1) – 10” caliper Crab Apple Tree (*Malus* spp.)  
In acceptable condition relative to health and vigor and representative of the typical characteristics of the genus and species. Has a split crotch trunk and poor initial pruning.

3. One (1) – 26” caliper Norway Maple Trees (*Acer platanoides*)  
In acceptable condition relative to health and vigor and representative of the typical characteristics of the genus and species. Is an invasive species.
4. One (1) – 26” caliper Norway Maple Trees (*Acer platanoides*)  
In acceptable condition relative to health and vigor and representative of the typical characteristics of the genus and species. Is an invasive species.
5. One (1) – 16” caliper Norway Maple Tree (*Acer platanoides*)  
In acceptable condition relative to health and vigor and representative of the typical characteristics of the genus and species. Has a split crotch trunk and is an invasive species.

To comply with the NRC Policy, Laws and Regulations Handbook, five (5) new tree plantings are being proposed in close proximity to the Hastings Street Right-of-Way to account for those being removed. They are as follows:

- Three (3) – 2.5” to 3” caliper October Glory Maple (*Acer Rubrum* “October Glory”)
- Two (2) – 2.0” to 2.5” caliper Red Sunset Maple (*Acer Rubrum* “Red Sunset”)

There are other tree and shrub plantings proposed around the Site, including bioretention areas and vegetative screening, to enhance the quality and aesthetics of the Site. Please see the attached Figures 1, 2, and 3 indicating the trees proposed to be removed, and the proposed replacement tree/shrub plantings.

Thank you for your consideration on this matter, and please feel free to contact me with any questions, either via phone (617-520-9428) or email ([cracine@smma.com](mailto:cracine@smma.com)).

Very truly yours,

**SMMA | Symmes Maini & McKee Associates**



Christopher Racine, P.E.  
Civil Engineer

cc: JGS, PXL, PBC, D&W (MF)

enclosures: Figures